United Nations A/59/592

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 94
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Letter dated 2 December 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to operative paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 58/15 of 3 December 2003, in which the Assembly, welcomed the decision of the State of Qatar to host an international conference to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in November 2004, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, as an annex, the text of the Doha Declaration of the Doha International Conference for the Family, issued on 30 November 2004.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 94.

(*Signed*) Jamal Nasser **Al-Bader**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

04-63418 (E) 031204

Annex to the letter dated 2 December 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Doha Declaration

Introduction

Representatives of Governments and members of civil society met in Doha, Qatar, on 29 and 30 November 2004, for the Doha International Conference for the Family, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

The Conference was convened under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al-Missned, Consort of His Highness the Emir of Qatar and President of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, State of Qatar.

The preparatory proceedings of the Doha Conference for the Family gathered the views of government officials, academicians, faith-based groups, non-governmental organizations and members of civil society.

The Conference recalls regional meetings held in Cotonou, Benin; Mexico City, Mexico; Stockholm, Sweden; Geneva, Switzerland; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and other venues; and notes the proposals and views expressed during the Conference by all participants.

Preamble

Reaffirming that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, as declared in article 16 (3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Noting that 2004 marks the tenth anniversary of the United Nations 1994 International Year of the Family and that the Doha International Conference for the Family was welcomed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 58/15 of 3 December 2003;

Acknowledging that the objectives of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family include efforts to (a) strengthen the capacity of national institutions to formulate, implement and monitor policies in respect of families; (b) stimulate efforts to respond to problems affecting, and affected by, the situation of families; (c) undertake analytical reviews at all levels and assessments of the situation and needs of families; (d) strengthen the effectiveness of efforts at all levels to execute specific programmes concerning families; and (e) improve collaboration among national and international non-governmental organizations in support of families;

Taking into consideration the academic, scientific and social findings collected for the Doha International Conference, which collectively demonstrate that the family is not only the fundamental group unit of society, but is also the fundamental agent for sustainable social, economic and cultural development;

Recognizing the need to address the challenges facing the family in the context of globalization;

Realizing that strengthening the family presents a unique opportunity to address societal problems in a holistic manner;

Reiterating that strong, stable families contribute to the maintenance of a culture of peace and promote dialogue among civilizations and diverse ethnic groups;

Welcoming the announcement by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al-Missned, Consort of His Highness the Emir of Qatar and President of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, State of Qatar, about the creation of an international Institute for Study of the Family,

In this regard, we reaffirm international commitments to the family and call upon all Governments, international organizations and members of civil society at all levels to take action to protect the family.

Reaffirmation of commitments to the family

We reaffirm international commitments to strengthen the family, in particular:

1. We commit ourselves to recognizing and strengthening the family's supporting, educating and nurturing roles, with full respect for the world's diverse cultural, religious, ethical and social values;

2. We recognize the inherent dignity of the human person and note that the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care before as well as after birth. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person;

3. We reaffirm that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to the widest possible protection and assistance by society and the State;

4. We emphasize that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and that the right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family shall be recognized and that husband and wife should be equal partners;

5. We further emphasize that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. All institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents to nurture and care for children in a family environment. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children and the liberty to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

Call for action

Taking into account the above commitments, we call upon all Governments, international organizations and members of civil society at all levels to:

Cultural, religious and social values

1. Develop programmes to stimulate and encourage dialogue among countries, religions, cultures and civilizations on questions related to family life, including measures to preserve and defend the institution of marriage;

2. Reaffirm the importance of faith and religious and ethical beliefs in maintaining family stability and social progress;

3. Evaluate and reassess the extent to which international law and policies conform to the principles and provisions related to the family contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international commitments;

Human dignity

4. Reaffirm commitments to provide a quality education for all, including equal access to educational opportunities;

5. Evaluate and reassess government policies to ensure that the inherent dignity of human beings is recognized and protected throughout all stages of life;

Family

6. Develop indicators to evaluate the impact of all programmes on family stability;

7. Strengthen policies and programmes that will enable families to break the cycle of poverty;

8. Evaluate and reassess government population policies, particularly in countries with below replacement birth rates;

9. Encourage and support the family to provide care for older persons and persons with disabilities;

10. Support the family in addressing the scourge of HIV/AIDS and other pandemics, including malaria and tuberculosis;

11. Take effective measures to support the family in times of peace and war;

Marriage

12. Uphold, preserve and defend the institution of marriage;

13. Take effective measures to strengthen the stability of marriage by, among other things, encouraging the full and equal partnership of husband and wife within a committed and enduring marital relationship;

14. Establish effective policies and practices to condemn and remedy abusive relationships within marriage and the family, including the establishment of public agencies to assist men, women, children and families in crisis;

Parents and children

15. Strengthen efforts to promote equal political, economic, social and educational opportunities for women and evaluate and assess economic, social and other policies to support mothers and fathers in performing their essential roles;

16. Strengthen the functioning of the family by involving mothers and fathers in the education of their children;

17. Reaffirm that parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children;

18. Reaffirm and respect the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

We request the host country of the Conference, the State of Qatar, to inform the United Nations General Assembly of the proceedings of the Conference, including the Doha Declaration, in particular during the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family to be held on 6 December 2004.

United Nations A/59/593

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda items 100 and 163

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 3 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to bring to your attention the concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1/Add.104, 26 November 2004) on the second periodic report of Azerbaijan on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The report lists 22 subjects of concern. These disclose the real nature of Azerbaijan's past and present discriminatory policies with regard to ethnic minorities.

Paragraph 15 states, "The Committee is concerned about the persistent de facto discrimination against foreign citizens, ethnic minorities and stateless persons".

Paragraph 28 expresses concerns about the illegal occupation of properties belonging to Armenians and other ethnic minorities.

In the suggestions and recommendations section, paragraph 54 "recommends the State party to take corrective measures to ensure that Armenians and other ethnic minorities whose properties are illegally occupied by refugees and internally displaced persons be provided with adequate compensation or offered alternative accommodation, in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Committee and its General Comment No. 7".

This report by an independent expert body once again demonstrates the hypocritical essence of Azerbaijan's recent initiative, where, under the guise of "urgency", it tries to divert the attention of the international community from its own defamatory policy of discrimination against ethnic minorities in crude violation of internationally recognized norms.

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The Republic of Armenia has expressed the opinion to United Nations Member States that by introducing the issue of the so-called "illegal settlement activities", Azerbaijan tries to conceal its own policy of resettlement. Those properties left by hundreds of thousands of Armenians massacred or deported from Azerbaijan from 1988 to 1992 have been officially confiscated (without any compensation) by a special decree of the President of Azerbaijan. This has included not only properties in the capital, Baku, the cities of Kirovabad (Ganja) and Sumgait and other places with large and concentrated Armenian populations, but also the immediate conflict zone — the districts of Shahumian, Getashen and Northern Martakert.

Particularly, by the decree of the President of Azerbaijan of 22 August 2001, the Azerbaijani State Committee on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons was instructed to organize the settlement of the refugees in the formerly completely-Armenian populated regions of Shahumian and Getashen. By the same decree the State Oil Fund has allocated 83 billion manats (about $18 million) to resettle Azeris who have in the past 14 years lived mostly in Baku and Ganja to the regions of Shahumian and Getashen. Moreover, Azerbaijan's late President Heydar Aliyev himself attended the official ceremony marking the resettlement of some 1,000 Azeri families in previously Armenian-populated villages of Shahumian and Verinshen (*Ekho* daily, 10 and 14 September 2004). At the time of the President's visit, 140 houses had already been built and 222 were under construction. Azerbaijan has even gone so far as to rename the Shahumian region Gyulistan, while the villages of Shahumian and Verinshen are already referred to as Ashaghi Agjakend and Yukhari Agjakend by the Azeri side. This is the apparent continuation of the policy of ethnic cleansing launched against the Armenian population of those regions by the Government of Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 100.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/59/594–S/2004/954

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 December 2004

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 6 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a summary of Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon from 12 to 30 November 2004, inclusive.

These grave violations are part of a series of persistent and provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese territory, including air, sea and land, and intervene against the principles of international law, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the repeated calls of the United Nations for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats against Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon relies upon the United Nations to deter and prevent Israel from indulging in such dangerous acts, which constitute a threat to international security and peace. Lebanon holds Israel fully responsible for any consequences to which those acts may lead.

In drawing your attention to the grave consequence of such acts, I request to have this letter of complaint and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-63695 (E) 071204

Annex to the identical letters dated 6 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

12 November 2004

At 1859 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naqoura fired two flare shells on the open sea.

15 November 2004

Between 1655 and 1700 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naquora fired several bursts of medium machine-gun fire on the open sea.

At 1104 hours, Israeli occupation forces, positioned in Rweiset-Al-Alam inside Chebaa farms, fired several bursts of medium and light machine-gun fire at the surroundings of this position.

16 November 2004

Between 0810 and 0940 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium machine-gun fire on the open sea.

19 November 2004

At 0745 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium machine-gun fire on the open sea.

At 1540 hours, Israeli occupation forces positioned inside Chebaa farms fired several bursts of medium and light machine-gun fire at the surroundings of Birket El-Naqar inside the farms.

20 November 2004

Between 1715 and 1955 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naqoura fired a flare shell and several bursts of medium machine-gun fire on the open sea.

28 November 2004

Between 1355 and 1910 hours, an Israeli drone aircraft violated Lebanese airspace at a medium altitude, entered from above the sea off Tyre, and circled between Saida and Tyre.

29 November 2004

Between 0728 and 1230 hours, an Israeli drone aircraft violated Lebanese airspace at a medium altitude, entered from above the sea off Tyre, and circled over Marake and Tyre.

Between 1942 and 2235 hours, an Israeli drone aircraft violated Lebanese airspace at a medium altitude, entered from above the sea off Tyre, headed to Damour, and circled over Damour, Naameh and Khalde.

30 November 2004

Between 0752 and 1040 hours, an Israeli drone aircraft violated Lebanese airspace at a medium altitude, entered from above the sea off Damour, headed east to Naameh, Beirut and Dbaieh, and left to the south from above Beirut towards the sea.

United Nations A/59/595–S/2004/956

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 December 2004
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 6 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to two letters addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Israel, on 9 and 17 November 2004, and to the way in which they take advantage of two incidents that occurred on the Blue Line in an attempt to distract attention from the almost daily violations and attacks committed by his country against Lebanon.

Accordingly, and on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to provide you with the following clarification:

- For a long time past, it has been Israel that has deliberately, and on an almost daily basis, been violating Lebanese airspace using various types of fighter aircraft as well as remotely-controlled unmanned air vehicles. Israel has also been using various forms of provocation in Lebanese airspace to terrorize the population and prevent people from going about their daily work, as reported in detail in dozens of our communications addressed to you, the most recent of which were number 2042/04 of 26 October 2004, number 2194/04 of 18 November 2004 and number 2209/04 of 23 November 2004.

- The Lebanese resistance, which was the reason for the departure of Israeli forces from occupied Lebanese territory after 22 years of resistance and struggle, is part of the national fabric of Lebanon and enjoys the support of the Lebanese Government and people which are engaged in an ongoing struggle to regain possession of the portions of national territory that are still under Israeli occupation.

- The policy of State terrorism carried out on a daily basis by the Israeli forces against the Lebanese population — whether by constantly violating Lebanese airspace and territorial waters, or by not handing over to the United Nations peacekeeping forces the remaining maps of the areas mined by Israel prior to its withdrawal, together with Israel's daily attacks and threats — is conducted entirely on the instructions of the Israeli Government and is intended to

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prevent the Lebanese population from returning to the enjoyment of their property and to harass them by terror and intimidation.

The Lebanese Government looks to the United Nations to stop the Israeli attacks and provocations against Lebanon, to establish security and stability along the Blue Line and to prevent the constant violations of Lebanese airspace and territorial waters as well as to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in accordance with the Arab peace initiative adopted in Beirut, and on the basis of the terms of reference of Madrid, the principle of land for peace and implementation of the applicable Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

I should be grateful if you would have this response circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 December 2004
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 6 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table showing the number of Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty which occurred during November 2004 and a synoptic statistical table showing such violations from May 2000 to the end of November 2004.

These grave violations are part of a series of persistent and provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese territory and airspace and go against the principles of international law, the resolutions of international legitimacy and your repeated calls for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats to Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon calls upon the Security Council to deter and prevent Israel from such dangerous acts, which pose a threat to international security and peace. Lebanon places upon Israel full responsibility for any consequences to which those acts may give rise.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 36 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-63652 (E) 071204 071204

Annex I to the letter dated 6 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statistical table showing the number of Israeli violations during November 2004

Air violations				*Sea violations*	*Land violations*			
					Military acts of aggression	*Field violations*	*Breaches*	
Military jet	*Reconnaissance*	*Helicopter*	*Total*	*Crossing of territorial waters, artillery fire and shooting of flares and flare bombs over territorial waters*	*Air raids, artillery fire, shelling of military positions and important centres, attacks on and killing of civilians*	*Gunfire, shooting of flares, dropping of artillery missiles, infiltration and crossing of international borders*	*Threats and displaying of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting-up of installations inside Lebanese territory*	*Total violations*
6	30	4	40	20	-	10	-	70

Annex II to the letter dated 6 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Synoptic statistical table showing the number of Israeli violations from May 2000 up to and including the end of November 2004

	Air violations				*Sea violations*	*Land violations*			
						Military acts of aggression	*Field violations*	*Breaches*	
Year	*Military jet*	*Reconnaissance*	*Helicopter*	*Total*	*Crossing of territorial waters, shooting of flares and flare bombs*	*Air raids, shelling of military positions and important centres*	*Artillery shelling, gunfire, infiltration, setting-up of installations inside Lebanese territory*	*Threats and displaying of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire inside Lebanese territory*	*Total violations*
2000	87	34	28	149	11	24	21	12	217
2001	346	68	45	459	39	10	19	22	549
2002	212	128	38	378	49	19	30	16	492
2003	237	210	87	534	157	21	85	47	844
2004 to date	182	222	97	501	277	22	144	56	1 000
Total	**1 024**	**662**	**295**	**2 021**	**533**	**96**	**299**	**153**	**3 102**

United Nations A/59/597

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda items 108, 12, 101, 105 (a), 105 (c) and 150

Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

International convention against the reproduction of cloning of human beings

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.49

International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings

Programme budget implications arising from the decision of the Sixth Committee at its 27th meeting, on 19 November 2004

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.31

Rights of the Child

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1

04-63707 (E) 091204

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed sessions of 2004

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the following statements of programme budget implications, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, of the following: draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.49, on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/C.5/59/19); proposal of the Chairman of the Sixth Committee at its 27th meeting, on 19 November 2004, related to the International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings (A/C.5/59/20); draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.31, on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/C.5/59/21); draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1, on the rights of the child (A/C.5/59/22). The Committee also considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to activities in the area of international cooperation in tax matters, resulting from resolution 2004/69, which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed substantive session of 2004 (A/59/393/Add.1).

2. The implementation of the above-mentioned decisions, if adopted by the General Assembly, would, as indicated below, entail in some cases additional appropriations for the biennium 2004-2005, which would be considered by the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures set out in General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 of 19 December 1986 and 21 December 1987, respectively, for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.49

3. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/59/19), under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.49, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, to give necessary assistance to enable his Special Envoy for Myanmar, as well as to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, to discharge their mandates fully and effectively, and to report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first session on the progress made on the implementation of the resolution.

4. The activities related to the implementation of the requests are described in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the statement. Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 contain information on the estimated resource requirements. In this connection, the Committee notes that the Secretary-General estimates that the costs of continuing the good offices efforts through his Special Envoy for Myanmar, for a one-year period (1 January to 31 December 2005), amount to $294,900 gross ($252,400 net). The resource

requirements are also presented in the consolidated presentation of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (see A/59/534/Add.1).

5. The breakdown of the costs is provided in the annex to the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/59/19). Resources include the provision of salaries for the Special Envoy, at the rate applicable on a when-actually-employed basis, and that of a General Service (Local level) to provide support to the Special Envoy as and when required ($102,600). It also includes provision for travel of the Special Envoy ($95,600), the services of a consultant ($48,500) and miscellaneous services in support of the Mission ($5,700).

6. The Committee notes from paragraph 6 of the statement that an unencumbered balance of $6,200 is expected to remain out of the appropriation for 2004. Taking this balance into account, the overall requirements for 2005 would therefore amount to $288,700 gross ($246,200 net).

7. The request in paragraph 4 (b) of the draft resolution regarding assistance to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights does not require additional resources, since provision for this type of activities, considered to be of a perennial nature, are already included under section 24, Human rights (see para. 8 of the Secretary-General's note).

8. **Taking into account paragraph 6 above, and bearing in mind what is stated in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the statement of the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.49, a total of up to $288,700 gross ($246,200 net) would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2005 for the continuation of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar.**

International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings

Programme budget implications arising from the decision of the Sixth Committee at its 27th meeting, on 19 November 2004

9. As indicated in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/59/20), at the 27th meeting, the Chairman of the Sixth Committee made a statement proposing the establishment of a working group to finalize the text of a United Nations declaration on human cloning, on the basis of draft resolution A/C.6/59/L.26, and to report to the Sixth Committee during the current session. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement regarding the administrative and budgetary implications of the proposal (see A/C.6/59/SR.27) and the Committee decided, without a vote, to establish a working group.

10. The activities related to the implementation of the request contained in the proposal of the Chairman of the Sixth Committee are indicated in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's statement. The Committee notes that the decision entails five meetings of the Working Group and one formal meeting of the Sixth Committee in February 2005. As indicated in paragraphs 7 and 8, the conference-servicing requirements related to the meetings of the working group, estimated at $128,600 (at

2004-2005 rates), would not require additional resources, since it is understood that the meetings would be held in lieu of the 10 meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee already programmed in the calendar of conferences. The conference-servicing requirements at full cost for a formal meeting of the Sixth Committee, to be held on 18 February 2005, entail an amount of $37,500 (at 2004-2005 rates), as indicated in paragraph 6 of the statement. The Advisory Committee requested clarification and was informed that the formal meeting would constitute an "addition". However, the Committee points out that it should be possible to accommodate the meeting from within existing conference-servicing resources, in view of the reduction in the overall number of meetings foreseen.

11. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that the implications of the proposals contained in the decision of the Sixth Committee at its 27th meeting, on 19 November 2004 would not entail additional requirements for the five-day session of the working group in February 2005. Bearing in mind what is stated in paragraph 9 above, the requirements related to the formal meeting of the Sixth Committee anticipated for 18 February 2005 ($37,500) need not be appropriated at this time; instead, such requirement, if any, should be reflected in the second performance report for the biennium 2004-2005.**

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.31

12. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/59/21), under the terms of operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.31, the General Assembly would welcome the establishment of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as the report of its first session, which was held from 1 to 5 March 2003, and take note of the rules of procedure adopted by the Committee.

13. The Committee notes that the above-mentioned Committee, in its report,[1] decided to request the Secretary-General to arrange two sessions in July and October 2005, of one week duration each. These sessions would replace an initially programmed session of three weeks for 2005 (see para. 3 of the statement). As indicated in paragraph 6 of the statement, the full cost of the activities envisaged in this decision amount to $891,300 in the biennium 2004-2005, compared to the amount of $1,120,400 currently approved for the programmed three-week session. The proposed arrangements would therefore result in additional requirements for travel of Committee members ($12,000), which, as indicated in paragraph 6 (a), can be absorbed within overall resources currently included under section 24, Human rights; and estimated savings of $238,100 and $3,200 under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services and section 29E, Administration, Geneva, respectively, of the programme budget for the current biennium.

14. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.31, as orally amended, it would not give rise to additional requirements under the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. Moreover, the actual savings resulting from the reduction in conference-servicing requirements will be**

reported to the General Assembly in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2004-2005.

Rights of the Child

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1

15. The Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/59/22) contains the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1, adopted by the Third Committee at its 52nd meeting, on 23 November 2004. The Committee notes that the draft resolution has programme budget implications which relate to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see A/C.5/59/22, sect. I) and to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (ibid., sect. II).

16. With regard to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee notes that, under the terms of paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1, the General Assembly would welcome the efforts of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to reform its working methods so as to consider the reports of States parties in a timely manner, including by the proposal to work in two chambers, as an exceptional and temporary measure, for a period of two years, in order to clear the backlog of reports, taking due account of equitable geographic distribution, and would urge the Committee to continue to review its working methods in order to enhance its efficiency and to assess progress after two years, also taking into account the wider context of treaty body reform.

17. The Committee notes that the bicameral work would increase the number of reports of States parties to be examined from 27 to 48 per year, as indicated in paragraph 3 of the statement. However, the Committee was informed that it is not expected that the backlog will be cleared up completely. **The Committee therefore stresses the importance of pursuing additional avenues in the context of the treaty body reform.**

18. Paragraph 8 of the statement contains a breakdown of the additional resource requirements related to the request contained in paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1. The Committee notes that the additional regular budget requirements for 2005 amount to $702,200, which would require additional appropriations by the General Assembly. As to the costs for 2006, indicated at $4,115,200, as indicated in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement, these would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. In connection with the latter, the Advisory Committee requested a breakdown of the conference-servicing requirements of $3,878,700 for 2006, which is attached as an annex below.

19. Under the terms of paragraph 51 (d) of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1, the General Assembly would decide to invite the Chairman of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session. This would be funded by extrabudgetary resources, as indicated in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's statement.

20. With regard to the programme budget implications related to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Committee notes that, under the terms of operative paragraph 51 (c) of draft

resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1, the General Assembly would decide to request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights.

21. Paragraphs 12 to 17 of the statement provide the background of the Office of the Special Representative. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, recommended that the Secretary-General appoint a Special Representative on the impact of armed conflict on children for a period of three years, and that a Special Representative was appointed in September 1997. The mandate of the Special Representative was extended by the General Assembly for subsequent three-year periods in its resolutions 54/149 and 57/190 of 17 December 1999 and 18 December 2002, respectively. In the latter resolution, the Assembly also requested a comprehensive assessment of the scope and effectiveness of the system's response, including recommendations for strengthening, mainstreaming, integrating and sustaining those activities.

22. Since its inception, the Office of the Special Representative has been funded through voluntary contributions. The Committee further recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/245 of 23 December 2003, decided that the activities under the mandate of that Office would be supported through regular budget funding. The Fifth Committee, having considered the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.28, informed the General Assembly before the adoption of the resolution that, should it adopt the draft resolution, any appropriations would be considered in the context of the report requested in resolution 57/190 (see para. 21 above). The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Comprehensive assessment of the United Nations response to children affected by armed conflict" was issued on 3 September 2004 (see A/59/331).

23. The Committee notes from paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/59/22) that it is not expected that sufficient extrabudgetary resources will be available to maintain the Office of the Special Representative beyond 31 December 2004. The balance of extrabudgetary resources for children and armed conflict activities is estimated to amount to $690,000 at the end of 2004, of which $150,000 are unearmarked. It is further indicated therein that "it is not possible at this stage to provide a definite estimate of voluntary contributions for 2005", but it could be determined, however, that the Office would not have sufficient extrabudgetary resources to operate through 2005.

24. As indicated in paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's statement, the reporting requested to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph 51 (c) of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1 has been the responsibility of the Office of the Special Representative during the past six years, and support is required to carry out this mandate for one more year, in view of the extension mentioned in paragraph 21 above.

25. The Committee notes from paragraph 21 and table 2 of the statement that the annual cost of the activities of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict is estimated at $950,000 net of staff assessment. The staffing costs, which amount to $750,000 provide for a streamlined structure, as indicated in the comprehensive assessment report

(A/59/331, para. 50), which includes a total of eight temporary posts (1 USG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3 and 3 General Service), described in paragraph 21 of the statement, compared to a previous total of 12 posts. The balance of the resources ($200,000), covering travel, consultancies and other office operations indicated in table 2, are based on related costs since 2002.

26. The Committee notes that the balance of unearmarked extrabudgetary resources of $150,000 would cover some of the operational requirements, but in order to maintain the Office until the end of December 2005, an additional provision of $800,000 net would be required to be funded from the regular budget for the biennium 2004-2005, under section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination. In addition, an amount of $120,000 would be required under section 34, Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under income from staff assessment.

27. As indicated in paragraph 22 of the statement, any possibility for reducing the proposed regular budget financing for 2005 could only be defined at a later stage, when further information of additional extrabudgetary resources becomes available. In addition, the Committee notes that, subject to the review of the mandate of the Special Representative during the General Assembly's sixtieth session, the funding of the Office beyond 2005 would be contingent upon availability of voluntary contributions.

28. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.29/Rev.1, additional requirements of $1,622,200 gross ($1,502,000 net) would arise under the programme budget for 2004-2005, as broken down in the table in paragraph 26 of the Secretary-General's statement. The additional appropriations would be considered by the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund mentioned in paragraph 2 above. The requirements of $4,115,200 for 2006, mentioned in paragraph 17 above, in connection with the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.**

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed sessions of 2004

29. The Advisory Committee was informed that, following the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/69, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters had been renamed the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. Starting in 2005, the Committee will hold yearly meetings, whereas the Ad Hoc Group used to meet on a biennial basis.

30. As indicated in the revised estimates submitted (A/59/393/Add.1), the expenditure requirements arising as a result of the adoption of resolution 2004/69, estimated at full cost of $294,900 for 2005, can be absorbed within resources approved for the biennium 2004-2005 under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services ($126,100), section 9, Economic and social affairs

($165,900) and section 29E, Administration, Geneva ($2,900). The related requirements for the biennium 2006-2007 and beyond are estimated at $589,800 per biennium. These requirements would be included in the proposed programme budgets for the biennium 2006-2007 and subsequent bienniums (para. 8, A/59/393/Add.1).

31. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/59/48).

Annex

Additional conference-servicing requirements in 2006: bicameral meetings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

	Pre-sessional Working Group			*Committee on the Rights of the Child*			
	Five days after each of three sessions			*Ten days parallel for each of three sessions*			
Duration of meeting		*Per session*	*Total*		*Per session*	*Total*	*Grand total*
Meeting services requirements	10 meetings	33 733	101 199	20 meetings	69 389	208 167	309 366
Pre-session documentation	7 documents 700 pages/doc	407 360	1 222 080	7 documents 700 pages/doc	407 360	1 222 080	2 444 160
Summary records		-			150 711	452 133	452 133
Post-session documentation	7 documents 56 pages/doc	41 479	124 437	7 documents 140 pages/doc	171 226	513 678	638 115
Editing/documents control and distribution		2 334	7 002		9 322	27 966	34 968
Total conference-servicing costs		**484 906**	**1 454 718**		**808 008**	**2 424 024**	**3 878 742**

3 878 700

United Nations A/59/598

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 105
Human rights questions

Note verbale dated 8 December 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, in its capacity as current Chair of the Convening Group of the Community of Democracies, presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to request that the present letter and the attached statement (see annex), issued on the occasion of Human Rights Day, be circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly under item 105, entitled "Human rights questions".

04-63932 (E) 091204

Annex to the note verbale dated 8 December 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement for Human Rights Day of the Convening Group of the Community of Democracies

The Convening Group of the Community of Democracies joins in the celebration of Human Rights Day on 10 December 2004. The principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the cornerstone of a peaceful, secure and prosperous world. These values, which constitute a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, are central to democratic governance and are best protected by Governments that are fully committed to the rule of law.

The Community of Democracies recognizes the fundamental importance of all human rights and the reinforcing mutual effects of and interdependence among peace, development, democracy and human rights. In both the Warsaw Declaration and the 2002 Seoul Plan of Action, Community of Democracies countries have committed themselves to strengthening the development of democratic institutions throughout the world and to promoting and protecting all human rights, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On Human Rights Day, these Community of Democracies nations commend all nations that have worked hard to build democracies and to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms. They recommit themselves to the development of democracy domestically and the promotion of democracy regionally and globally in order to adhere to the principles laid down in that important Declaration.